

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 5, and 15-19 as follows. Please add claims 20-26 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) ~~A method for selecting a gateway network node for a mobile station served by a serving network node, in a system where at least two network operators share a radio network and the serving network node, the system comprising at least two gateway network nodes, the method comprising:~~

maintaining partner information about predefined partner networks, the partner information indicating that ~~said~~ network operators share ~~the~~ a serving network node, and

selecting a gateway network node for ~~the~~ a mobile station served by the serving network node on the basis of the partner information,

wherein the selecting ~~a~~ of the gateway network node for the mobile station on the basis of the partner information comprises

checking on the basis of the partner information whether a mobile station is ~~in the home network~~, in a predefined partner network of ~~the~~ a home network, ~~or in a network outside them; and~~

~~selecting the gateway network node of the home network if the mobile station is in its home network;~~

selecting the gateway network node of the home network if the mobile station is in a predefined partner network of the home network; ~~and~~

~~selecting the gateway network node of a visited network if the mobile station is~~

~~outside its home network or predefined partner mobile networks of its home network.~~

2. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the partner information comprises direct or indirect indications of
the network in which the mobile station is located, and of
the home network of the mobile station.

3. Cancelled

4. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the selecting a gateway network node for the mobile station on the basis of the partner information comprises

checking on the basis of the partner information whether the mobile station is in a network that is a predefined partner network of the one belonging to its home network operator; and

selecting the gateway network node of a visited network if the mobile station is in a network that is a predefined partner network of the one belonging to its home network operator.

5. (Currently Amended) A ~~mobile communications system,~~ comprising:
at least one mobile station;

a subscriber register ~~for maintaining~~ configured to maintain subscriber information of the mobile station;

at least two networks to which the mobile station connects when the mobile station is within the area of the network, one of the networks being ~~the~~ a home network of the mobile station, the networks comprising at least one gateway network node ~~for interaction to~~ interact between packet switched mobile networks and external data networks; and

at least one serving network node ~~for serving~~ configured to serve the mobile station while the mobile station is in the area of the serving network node,

wherein the system is configured to maintain partner information about networks that are predefined partner networks of the home network, the home network sharing at least one serving network node with each of the predefined partner networks;

wherein the system is further configured to check on the basis of the partner information whether a mobile station is ~~in the home network,~~ in a predefined partner network of the home network, ~~or in a network outside them;~~ and

~~select the gateway network node of the home network if the mobile station is in its home network;~~

select the gateway network node of the home network if the mobile station is in a predefined partner network of the home network; and

~~select the gateway network node of a visited network if the mobile station is~~

~~outside its home network or predefined partner mobile networks of its home network.~~

6. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 5, wherein the partner information is maintained in the serving network node to indicate the networks sharing the serving network node.

7. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 6, wherein the serving network node is configured to compare the mobile network code/mobile country code of the mobile station, in connection with the context activation of the mobile station, with access point name operator identifiers stored for each network operator sharing the serving network node, said mobile network code/mobile country code indicating explicitly the home network of the mobile station and said access point name operator identifier indicating implicitly the partner information.

8. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 5, wherein the serving network node is also configured to connect a mobile station located in a mobile network that is a predefined partner network of its home network to the gateway network node of the home network.

9. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 5, wherein the partner information is maintained in a subscriber register.

10. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 9, wherein the subscriber register is configured to

check the partner information in connection with the location update of the mobile station;

set the value of a “Visitor-PLMN address allowed”-flag to ‘No’ if the mobile station is in a predefined partner network of the home network; and

indicate the value of the flag to the serving network node.

11. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 5, wherein the serving network node is also configured to connect the mobile station located in a predefined partner network of its home network to the gateway network node of the home network.

12. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 5, wherein the subscriber register is configured to

check the partner information in connection with the location update of the mobile station, the partner information comprising at least one network belonging to the home network operator;

set value of the “Visitor-PLMN address allowed”-flag to ‘Yes’ if the mobile station is located in a network that is a predefined partner network of the one belonging to its home network operator; and

indicate the value of the flag to the serving network node.

13. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 5, wherein the serving network node is also configured to connect the mobile station located in a predefined partner network of the one belonging to its home network operator to the gateway network node of the visited network on the basis of the partner information, the partner information comprising at least one network belonging to the home network operator.

14. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 9, wherein the subscriber register is configured to

compare the mobile network code/mobile country code of the mobile station with access point name operator identifiers stored for each network operator sharing the network in connection with the location update of the mobile station; and

indicate the result of the comparison to the serving network node.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~A subscriber register for maintaining subscriber information in a system~~An apparatus, comprising:

~~at least one mobile station,~~

~~at least two networks to which the mobile station connects when the mobile station is within the area of the network, one of the networks being the home network of the mobile station, the networks comprising at least one gateway network node for~~

~~interaction between packet switched mobile networks and external data networks, and~~

~~at least one serving network node for serving the mobile station while the mobile station is in the area of the serving network node,~~

~~the subscriber register comprising:~~

~~a first routine for maintaining~~configured to maintain partner information about networks that are predefined partner networks of ~~the a network, the a partner network and the a home network~~ sharing at least one serving network node, wherein the serving network node is configured to serve a mobile station while the mobile station is in the area of the serving network node;

~~a second routine for checking~~configured to check the partner information of the mobile station, ~~and;~~

~~a third routine for indicating~~configured to indicate, on the basis of the partner information, the gateway network node, to which the mobile station is to be connected, to the serving network node serving the mobile station;

~~wherein the subscriber register is configured to~~

a checking unit configured to check on the basis of the partner information whether a mobile station is ~~in the home network,~~ in a predefined partner network of the home network, ~~or in a network outside them; and~~

an indicator configured to indicate the gateway network node of the home network if ~~the mobile station is in its home network;~~ to indicate the gateway network node of the home network if the mobile station is in a predefined partner network of the home

network; and indicate the gateway network node of a visited network if the mobile station is outside its home network or predefined partner mobile networks of its home network.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~A serving network node for relaying packet switched data in a system~~An apparatus, comprising:

~~at least one mobile station;~~

~~a subscriber register for maintaining subscriber information of the mobile station;~~

~~and~~

~~at least two networks to which the mobile station connects when the mobile station is within the area of the network, one of the networks being the home network of the mobile station, the networks comprising at least one gateway network node for interaction between packet switched mobile networks and external data networks;~~

~~the serving network node comprising:~~

~~a first routine for checking~~configured to check partner information about networks that are predefined partner networks of the a network, the partner network and the a home network sharing the ~~serving network node~~apparatus; and;

~~a second routine for selecting~~configured to select a gateway network node on the basis of the partner information;

~~wherein the serving network node is configured to~~

a checking unit configured to check on the basis of the partner information whether a mobile station is ~~in the home network,~~ in a predefined partner network of the

home network, ~~or in a network outside them;~~ and

a selector configured to select the gateway network node of the home network if the mobile station is in its home network; ~~select the gateway network node of the home network if the mobile station is in a predefined partner network of the home network;~~ and select the gateway network node of a visited network if the mobile station is outside its home network or predefined partner mobile networks of its home network.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~A serving network node~~ An apparatus according to claim 16, further comprising a third routine ~~for maintaining~~ configured to maintain partner information.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~A serving network node~~ An apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the ~~network node~~ apparatus is a serving general packet radio service support node of a general packet radio service network.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~A serving network node for relaying packet switched data in a system comprising at least one mobile station and at least two networks, one of which is a home network of the at least one mobile station~~ An apparatus, the serving network node comprising:

partner information checking means for checking partner information about networks that are predefined partner networks of a network, the a partner network and the

a home network sharing a serving network node~~the apparatus, and;~~

selecting means for selecting a gateway network node on the basis of the partner information;

~~wherein the serving network node further comprises~~

checking means for checking on the basis of the partner information whether a mobile station is ~~in the home network,~~ in a predefined partner network of the home network, ~~or in a network outside them;~~ and

~~means for selecting the gateway network node of the home network if the mobile station is in its home network;~~

predefined partner network selecting means for selecting the gateway network node of the home network if the mobile station is in a predefined partner network of the home network; and

~~means for selecting the gateway network node of a visited network if the mobile station is outside its home network or predefined partner mobile networks of its home network.~~

20. (New) An apparatus, comprising:

maintaining means for maintaining partner information about networks that are predefined partner networks of a network, a partner network and a home network sharing at least one serving network node, wherein the serving network node is configured to serve a mobile station while the mobile station is in the area of the serving network node;

partner information checking means for checking the partner information of the mobile station;

gateway network node indicating means for indicating, on the basis of the partner information, the gateway network node, to which the mobile station is to be connected, to the serving network node serving the mobile station;

checking means for checking on the basis of the partner information whether a mobile station is in a predefined partner network of the home network; and

predefined partner network indicating means for indicating the gateway network node of the home network if the mobile station is in a predefined partner network of the home network.

21. (New) A method, comprising:

checking partner information about networks that are predefined partner networks of a network, a partner network and a home network sharing the apparatus;

selecting a gateway network node on the basis of the partner information;

checking on the basis of the partner information whether a mobile station is in a predefined partner network of the home network; and

selecting the gateway network node of the home network if the mobile station is in a predefined partner network of the home network.

22. (New) A method, comprising:

maintaining partner information about networks that are predefined partner networks of a network, a partner network and a home network sharing at least one serving network node, wherein the serving network node is configured to serve a mobile station while the mobile station is in the area of the serving network node;

checking the partner information of the mobile station;

indicating, on the basis of the partner information, the gateway network node, to which the mobile station is to be connected, to the serving network node serving the mobile station;

checking on the basis of the partner information whether a mobile station is in a predefined partner network of the home network; and

indicating the gateway network node of the home network if the mobile station is in a predefined partner network of the home network.

23. (New) A method according to claim 1, wherein the selecting of the gateway network node for the mobile station on the basis of the partner information comprises

checking on the basis of the partner information whether the mobile station is in the home network, in a predefined partner network of the home network, or in a network outside them;

selecting the gateway network node of the home network if the mobile station is in its home network; and

selecting the gateway network node of a visited network if the mobile station is

outside its home network or predefined partner mobile networks of its home network.

24. (New) A system according to claim 5, wherein the system is configured to check on the basis of the partner information whether a mobile station is in the home network, in a predefined partner network of the home network, or in a network outside them,

select the gateway network node of the home network if the mobile station is in its home network, and

select the gateway network node of a visited network if the mobile station is outside its home network or predefined partner mobile networks of its home network.

25. (New) An apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the checking unit is configured to check on the basis of the partner information whether a mobile station is in the home network, in a predefined partner network of the home network, or in a network outside them; and

the indicator is configured to indicate the gateway network node of the home network if the mobile station is in its home network, and to indicate the gateway network node of a visited network if the mobile station is outside its home network or predefined partner mobile networks of its home network.

26. (New) An apparatus according to claim 16, wherein

the checking unit is configured to check on the basis of the partner information whether a mobile station is in the home network, in a predefined partner network of the home network, or in a network outside them; and

the selector is configured to select the gateway network node of the home network if the mobile station is in its home network, and to select the gateway network node of a visited network if the mobile station is outside its home network or predefined partner mobile networks of its home network.